



FINAL RECORD OF DECISION

BORDERTOWN TO CALIFORNIA

120 KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST

WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA

SIERRA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

June 2019

**Responsible Official: William A. Dunkelberger, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest**

A. Background

In 2011, NV Energy submitted an SF-299 application and preliminary plan of development to the Forest Service (USFS), Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest requesting a Special Use Permit (SUP) to construct, operate and maintain a 120 kilo-volt (kV) above ground power line that would connect the Bordertown Substation located approximately 18 miles north of Reno, Nevada to the California Substation located near Verdi, Nevada. Both substations are located in Sierra County, California with the majority of the transmission line located in Washoe County, Nevada.

The Forest Service is the lead federal agency completing this EIS in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Eagle Lake Field Office, Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA), Washoe County, Sierra County and the City of Reno. Both the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the Nevada Public Utilities Commission (PUCN) were invited to participate in the analysis. The CPUC determined that they do not have jurisdiction for this project since NV Energy does not have customers in California and PUCN did not participate because they do not regulate 120 kV transmission lines. The powerline exits each substation within existing utility corridors, located in Sierra County, California. If required, compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) would be completed by Sierra County or Lahontan Quality Control Board following a final record of decision.

Additional authorizations or permits are required where agencies have independent jurisdiction and approval authority over some project segments, including a right-of-way from the BLM for expansion of the Bordertown Substation, and special use permits from the City of Reno, Washoe County, Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency and Sierra County. NV Energy will also need to acquire easements across private property.

B. Decision

I have selected the Peavine/Poeville Alternative based upon my review of the analysis disclosed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), project record, and evaluation of the information provided by the applicant. This decision applies only to National Forest System (NFS) land in Washoe County, Nevada. This decision is conditioned on the terms of the special use permit and implementation of project design features, mitigation and monitoring as identified in the Final EIS and in Appendix B, Design Features attached to this Final Record of Decision (ROD). The permit will authorize temporary work areas that are outside of the long-term special use permit area, see **(Figure 2.7-1)**.

Beginning at the Bordertown Substation, in Sierra County, California near Bordertown, Nevada the Peavine/Poeville powerline would parallel the existing Alturas 345 kV transmission line for approximately 2.2 miles, with 0.4 miles within the designated Section 368 energy corridor. The powerline would continue south approximately 6.0 miles generally parallel to the California-Nevada State line, approximately 0.6 to 0.9 miles east on the Nevada side of the state line. The last 2.2 miles would be reconstructed within an existing utility easement, replacing the H-frame pole structures of the inactive #632 line, parallel to the existing #114 120 kV and #106 120 kV powerline line west through Verdi, Nevada to the California Substation located in Sierra County, California.

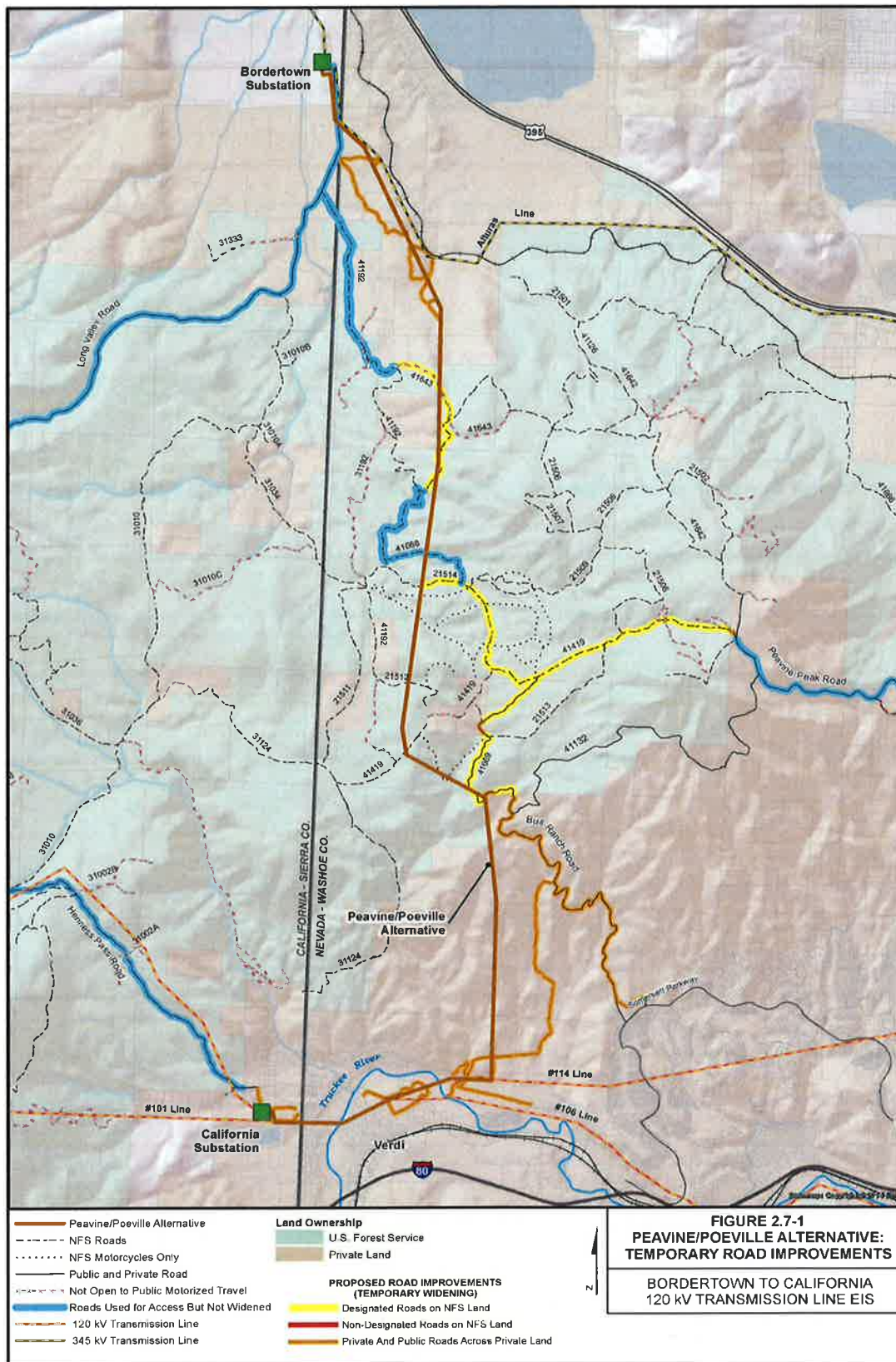
The Peavine/Poeville Selected Alternative would be approximately 11.9 miles long. Approximately 10.8 miles would be constructed in Nevada and 1.1 miles in California. Approximately 4.3 miles or (46.9 acres) would cross NFS land, 0.4 miles or (4.36 acres) would cross BLM land and 7.2 miles or (78.5 acres) would cross private land. The Bordertown Substation would be expanded by approximately 3.7 acres on BLM land. The California Substation would not be expanded, as all needed modifications would be within the existing fenced area of the substation located on private land.

My decision approves the following construction related improvements and restoration activities for the Peavine/Poeville Alternative on NFS land as follows:

Transmission Line: Construction, operation and maintenance of a 120 kV above ground transmission line consisting of poles and electrical wire approximately 4.3 miles in length within a 90-foot wide right-of-way, totaling approximately 46.9 acres. **(Figure 2.7-1)**.

Access Roads: Construction, operation, maintenance, widening, and restoration of access roads **(Figure 2.7-1)**. These include the following categories of roads identified as:

- Regularly maintained roads: includes construction access and maintenance of Forest Roads 41192 and 41668, but not widened. The total length is approximately 3.8 miles.
- Temporary road or trail widening: these include sections of Forest Roads 41643, 41419, 41669, and motorized trail 21514 to be temporarily widened up to 30 feet to allow for construction access. These routes will be restored to the original road or trail width and revegetated following installation of the transmission line. The total length is approximately 6.7 miles or 17 acres.
- Temporary centerline travel route and work areas: an overland travel route will be utilized for construction access within the variable width corridor and centerline of the 90 foot right-of way. Approximately 127.3 acres containing travel routes and work areas will be revegetated following installation of the powerline.



C. Project Design Features and Mitigation Measures

All practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the alternative selected have been adopted, including a required monitoring plan. Project design features are required to be implemented during construction, operation and maintenance of the powerline and are included in this decision as Appendix B. Mitigation requirements are described below.

D. Required Mitigation

My decision includes mitigation to offset wildlife habitat loss and the development of a historic property treatment plan to mitigate potential adverse effects to cultural resources included as follows:

Wildlife Habitat

To ensure that impacts to wildlife habitat, particularly mule deer are no more than minor, vegetation that would be permanently lost or temporarily disturbed from the project, would require creation of or improvement of on or offsite wildlife habitat. To achieve this, NV Energy will fund a habitat restoration account that includes the cost of restoring three acres to every one acre of habitat that is permanently or temporarily disturbed. The account will be administered by NDOW or a Sierra Front Wildlife Working Group that would include NDOW, Washoe County, USFS, BLM, City of Reno and other interested participants. Appendix B, (WL8).

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources will be managed in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement among the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest; the California State Historic Preservation Officer; the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer; and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regarding the California 120kv Transmission Line By NV Energy on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Carson Ranger District, Washoe County, Nevada And Sierra County, California (Bordertown MOA, 2019).

E. Decision Rationale

My decision of the selected alternative provides the needed benefits of reliable electrical transmission capacity to the west side of Reno consistent with the reliability standards that NV Energy is mandated to achieve.

The selected alternative, best meets the purpose and need to provide a back-up power line to serve West Reno within and adjacent to the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in a manner that minimizes crossing NFS land while utilizing regionally and federally designated utility corridors. This alternative minimizes routing across private land, avoids a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and avoids designated critical habitat for Webber ivesia (*Ivesia webberi*), a threatened species protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This route maximizes crossing land previously disturbed by wildland fire and minimizes crossing mature forest vegetation types.

My conclusions are based on a review of the FEIS and project record, which documents a thorough analysis of relevant scientific information. I have considered the issues raised by the public during the environmental review. Several of those issues are addressed in the following discussion.

Land Use and Private Property: Land use plans and private property are addressed in Section 3.3.2 of the FEIS. The Peavine/Poeville Alternative crosses 4.3 miles on NFS land, 0.4 miles on BLM land and 7.2 miles on private

land. My selected action will have no impacts to structures from setbacks or separation requirements as the route would cross undeveloped private, NFS and BLM land. The Peavine/Poeville Alternative is consistent with the Toiyabe Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), BLM Eagle Lake Resource Management Plan (RMP), Sierra County and Truckee Meadows Planning Agency Regional Plan in that it utilizes federal and regionally designated utility corridors. Approximately 4.4 miles of the Peavine/Poeville Alternative would be located within an existing power line corridor consistent with the Truckee Meadows Regional Plan priority hierarchy to “locate new above ground or underground transmission infrastructure in an existing corridor that already contains above ground transmission infrastructure without expanding the corridor width” (Pg. 15 Module 3). The 2012 Sierra County General Plan preference is to locate powerlines that upgrade existing transmission lines and parallel existing transmission lines (Pg. 15-28).

Public Health and Safety: Electric and magnetic fields (EMF) are discussed in Section 3.4 of the FEIS. Presently, there are no federal health-based standards for limiting public exposure to EMFs. Several non- government organizations have recommended science-based exposure limits for EMFs for occupational workers and the general public. The calculated EMFs produced by the Peavine/Poeville Alternative, inside and outside the ROW are below the recommended exposure limits for the general public (FEIS Section 3.4.3.7).

Visual Resources: Visual resources are discussed in Section 3.2 of the FEIS, including Appendix C containing visual simulations. The Peavine/Poeville Alternative will have minimal visual impacts by utilizing the existing utility corridor east of the California Substation by replacing the existing #632 power line in the same location through Verdi see (Key Observation Points 16 and 17) and Section 3.2.4.6 of the FEIS. To further reduce visual effects of powerline transmission poles, design features (VI 1), non-specular conductors will be installed to reduce visual impacts and the number of new poles will be minimized by increasing the pole span length on NFS land in areas designated as Partial Retention as terrain allows (VI 2).

Vegetation Resources: Vegetation resources are discussed in Section 3.7 of the FEIS. The Peavine/Poeville Alternative would minimize crossing mature pine forest communities. Approximately 12 acres of forested habitat will be cleared to maintain safe transmission line clearances (FEIS Section 3.7.2.2).

Special Status Plants: Special status plants are discussed in Section 3.8 of the FEIS. The Peavine/Poeville Alternative avoids impacts to occupied habitat and critical habitat for Webber ivesia (*Ivesia webberi*), a threatened plant species protected under the ESA. Dog Valley ivesia (*Ivesia aperta* var. *canina*), a Forest Service sensitive plant species would also be avoided. Project design features (SV 2), (SV 4 through SV 8), and (HE 11) have been developed to avoid direct effects to special status plant populations and individual plants.

Wildlife Habitat: Wildlife and wildlife habitat is discussed in Section 3.9 of the FEIS. There are temporary and permanent impacts to habitat. The Peavine/Poeville Alternative avoids removal of mature pine forest habitat. The project has been designed to minimize impacts by precluding construction activities from November 25 through May 25 in areas mapped as crucial winter or winter-spring high use areas for mule deer (WL 6) and avoids disturbance to nesting birds by requiring that construction activities occur outside the typical avian breeding season (April 1 to July 31) or requiring surveys to be conducted immediately prior to construction to locate active nesting areas for protection (WL 3). To ensure that impacts to wildlife habitat, particularly mule deer are no more than minor, vegetation that would be permanently lost or temporarily disturbed from the project, would require creation of or improvement of on or offsite wildlife habitat. (WL 8).

Cultural Resources: Cultural resources is discussed in Section 3.5 of the FEIS. The project has been designed to avoid or minimize direct effects to all NRHP listed, eligible or unevaluated sites (CU3) and requires a historic property treatment plan be prepared and implemented where avoidance is not possible. A historic property treatment plan was prepared to mitigate impacts to pre-historic resources (MOA, 2019)

F. Other Required Permits and Approvals

My decision is only one part of the regulatory approvals needed by NV Energy for this project to be approved prior to construction. NV Energy must obtain other agency approvals as described in section 1.9 of the FEIS. The special use permit will not be issued by the Forest Service until NV Energy obtains all applicable permits or licenses.

Alternatives Considered in Detail

In addition to the selected alternative, I considered 4 other alternatives in detail, which are discussed below. A comparison of alternatives considered in detail can be found in Section 2.3 through 2.6 and displayed on Figures 2.1-1 through 2.1-3 in the FEIS. The differences between the action alternatives are the location of the proposed 90-footwide right-of-way and the location of construction access roads, including road widening. The project facilities and substation modifications would be constructed, operated, and maintained under any of the action alternatives. Construction activities, equipment, and materials would apply to all the action alternatives. The number of pole structures and sites, access roads, and transmission wire setup sites required during construction would vary by length and location of each alternative.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative, the Forest Service would not issue a special use permit. I did not select this alternative because it does not meet to the purpose and need to provide the redundancy needed in NV Energy's power transmission system.

Mitchell Alternative

The Mitchell Alternative would be approximately 11.7 miles long, with 8.4 miles on NFS land. I did not select this alternative because it would impact more forest habitat and would have greater visual effects to private property in Verdi, Nevada and at the Forest Service boundary along Dog Valley/Heness Pass road.

Peavine Alternative

The Peavine Alternative would be approximately 10.3 miles long, with 7.0 acres on NFS land. The first approximately 5.0 miles of the Peavine Alternative would be identical to the Mitchell Alternative. I did not select this alternative because it would impact more forest habitat and would have greater visual effects to private property and at the Forest Service boundary along Dog Valley/Heness Pass road in Verdi, Nevada.

Poeville Alternative

The Poeville Alternative would be approximately 18.0 miles long, with 4.3 miles on NFS land. This alternative had the least number of miles crossing NFS land as any of the other alternatives which is why I originally identified it as the Agency preferred alternative in the Draft EIS. I did not select this alternative because it would have greater impact to private land, greater visual impacts and would potential adversely affect historic properties along the right-of-way including a site listed on the National Historic Register of Historic Places.

G. Alternatives Eliminated from Detailed Study

In addition to the alternatives considered in detail, I also considered 20 additional alternatives. These alternatives were eliminated from further study and analysis as described in the FEIS Section 2.11 as they were either redundant with alternatives considered in detail, were infeasible to construct or would impact occupied habitat for Webber ivesia (*Ivesia webberi*). The proposed action as presented by NV Energy had the potential to impact individual populations and critical habitat of Webber's Ivesia, a plant listed as threatened by the ESA.

H. Public Involvement Conducted

A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS was published in the *Federal Register* on November 21, 2011 (*Federal Register* Volume 76, Number 224). The Bureau of Land Management, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Truckee Meadows Planning Agency, Washoe County, Sierra County, and City of Reno were cooperating agencies in preparation of the EIS. Public notification of the Proposed Action and project documents have been posted on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions website <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/htnf/bordertownline>.

A scoping notice describing the project was mailed to residents and interested parties in November 2011 and February 2012. To gain further participation from the public the USFS hosted public meetings in Cold Springs, Nevada, and Verdi, Nevada. In total, 60 people attended the scoping meetings. Presentations were made to the North Valleys Citizen Advisory Board, Verdi Township Citizen Advisory Board, Ward 5 Northwest Neighborhood Advisory Board, Ward 4 North Valleys and Northeast Neighborhood Advisory Board, Reno City Council, Washoe County Commission, and Sierra County Board of Supervisors. Issues raised during scoping included visual resource concerns, wildlife habitat, private property, electromagnetic fields, fire and fuels, recreation, vegetation including noxious weeds and land use.

A Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft EIS was published in the *Federal Register* on December 12, 2014 (*Federal Register* Volume 79, Number 239) initiating a 45-day public comment period. Interested and affected individuals were notified by email and regular mail. Public meetings were held at the Northwest Reno Public Library and a presentation at the North Valleys Citizen Advisory Board. Private property was a concern related to the Poeville alternative as it was the longest of the transmission line routes and crossed the most private land.

The Draft Record of Decision (ROD) and Final EIS was noticed in the *Reno Gazette Journal* initiating a 45-day objection period on March 3, 2018. No objections were received.

A letter of support from the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board dated March 14, 2018 included reminders about general construction permitting if required. The water board does not anticipate taking discretionary action for this project as it has been exempted from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQUA). Other permitting requirements are identified in Section 1.9 of the FEIS.

A letter of from the Environmental Protection Agency dated July 19, 2018 supported the management requirements and mitigation measures identified in the FEIS which have all incorporated in Appendix B of this ROD.

A letter from Sierra County dated January 7, 2019 indicated that a permit would not be required for the California Substation improvements. The improvements are within the existing footprint and no discretionary review or approval from the County is needed and is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQUA).

I. Environmentally Preferred Alternative

As described in the FEIS, Section 2.10, the Environmentally Preferred Alternative is the No Action alternative because it would not result in disturbance to vegetation, soils or wildlife species, individuals or habitat. There would be no tree removal. There would be no road widening or restoration efforts needed to restore vegetation following construction. There would be no risk of new noxious weed establishment and no effects to habitat supporting pollinators for sensitive plant species. There would be no effects to cultural resources. I did not select this alternative because it would not meet the purpose and need of the project to provide reliable bulk transmission capacity to the West Reno/Verdi area.

J. Tribal Consultation

During the early planning stages of this analysis (2011), the Forest Service conducted informal consultation with the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe to discuss the project and potential effects to cultural resources. Intensive tribal consultation continued throughout the analysis and development of the Bordertown MOA (2019). Consultation will continue throughout implementation of the project.

K. Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) requires projects and permits to be consistent with the Land Management Plan (16 USC § 1604(i)). Consistency with the Forest Plan is discussed in Section 3.3.2 of the FEIS. This decision to select the Peavine-Poeville Alternative is consistent with the Humboldt-Toiyabe Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) long term and multiple use goals and objectives listed in Chapter IV, Pages 1-12. The project was designed in conformance with forest plan standards and incorporates appropriate Forest Plan guidelines for managing sensitivity and visual quality objectives (IV-3), engaging the public in the decision making process (IV-5), protecting soils from being degraded and maintaining water quality (IV6), maintaining forested habitats for nongame and ecologically important species (IV-7), protection of sensitive and threatened species and coordination with State Wildlife Agencies (IV-7), National Register properties will be protected and noxious weed infestations will be treated (IV-12).

This decision also conforms to the following laws, regulations, policy, and executive orders.

LAW, REGULATION, POLICY, OR EXECUTIVE ORDER	STATEMENT OF CONFORMANCE
American Antiquities Act of 1906 (as amended)	Design features (Appendix B) have been developed to prohibit the collection or disturbance of archeological sites encountered during construction. All prior cultural resource surveys and any potential future cultural resource surveys for the proposed project were conducted by qualified archaeologists under a permit issued by the USFS.
American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978	Native American Tribes were consulted to determine the presence of American Indian religious sites. See tribal consultation summary (Section 4.2.2 FEIS).
Archeological Resource Protection Act of 1979	Design features (Appendix B, FEIS) have been developed to prohibit the unauthorized collection or disturbance of archeological sites encountered during construction or maintenance of the project.
Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940 (as amended)	The proposed project would not result in the “take” of bald eagles or golden eagles. The project would be in conformance with the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940, as amended.
BLM Manual 6500: Wildlife and Fisheries Management (1988)	Design features (Appendix B) have been incorporated into the proposed project to avoid or minimize impacts to wildlife and fisheries as much as feasible.
BLM Manual 6840: Special Status Species Management (2008a)	Design features (Appendix B) have been incorporated into the proposed project to avoid or minimize impacts on BLM special status species.

LAW, REGULATION, POLICY, OR EXECUTIVE ORDER	STATEMENT OF CONFORMANCE
Clean Air Act of 1979 (as amended)	The proposed project would be compliant with the CAA of 1979, as amended, because emissions of criteria pollutants would be below the NAAQS (see Section 3.12 FEIS). Other air pollution problems addressed in the CAA, such as acid rain or depletion of the ozone layer are not relevant to the proposed project.
Clean Water Act of 1977 (as amended)	The discharge of pollutants from a point source would not occur under the proposed project. All impacts to waters of the United States would be permitted under Section 404 of the CWA.
Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended)	The proposed project would not jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat of such species. The proposed project would not result in the “take” of any listed species or species proposed for listing. See agency consultation summary (Section 4.2.1 FEIS).
Executive Order 11988 (floodplains)	The proposed project would not require occupancy within the 100-year floodplain. The proposed project would not modify the flood flow retention capability of the 100-year floodplain (see Section 3.6.2.2 FEIS).
Executive Order 11990 (wetlands)	Compliant with Executive Order 11990, design features (Appendix B) have been developed to minimize impacts to wetlands on NFS land and BLM-administered public land.
Executive Order 12898 (environmental justice)	Compliant with Executive Order 12898, the USFS has completed an environmental justice analysis. A summary of the analysis conclusions is provided in Section 3.1.1.2.
Executive Order 13007 (American Indian sacred sites)	Native American Tribes were consulted to determine the presence of American Indian sacred sites. See tribal consultation summary (Section 4.2.2).
Executive Order 13175 (consultation and coordination with Indian Tribal Governments)	Consultation with Native American Tribes was conducted in accordance with Executive Order 13175. See tribal consultation summary (Section 4.2.2).
Executive Order 13186 (Migratory Bird Treaty)	Pursuant to Executive Order 13186, the potential effects of the proposed project on migratory birds are evaluated in Section 3.9. Design features (Appendix B) have been developed to avoid impacting nesting migratory birds during construction.
Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976	In accordance with the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976, this EIS evaluates the proposed project in terms of its conformity with the Eagle Lake RMP (BLM 2008b) and its potential effects on the various resources contributing to the multiple uses for which the BLM-administered public land in the project area is managed.
Historic Sites Act of 1935	The potential effects of the proposed project on historic properties listed on the NRHP or eligible for such listing have been evaluated. See SHPO consultation summary (Section 4.2.3 FEIS).

LAW, REGULATION, POLICY, OR EXECUTIVE ORDER	STATEMENT OF CONFORMANCE
Memorandum of Understanding to Promote the Conservation of Migratory Birds (BLM and USFWS 2010)	Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding to Promote the Conservation of Migratory Birds (BLM and USFWS 2010), the potential effects of the proposed project on migratory birds are evaluated in Section 3.9. Design features (Appendix B) have been developed to avoid impacting nesting migratory birds during construction.
Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (as amended)	Design features (Appendix B) have been incorporated into the proposed project requiring pre-disturbance migratory bird nesting surveys if surface disturbance is unavoidable during the migratory bird nesting season. The proposed project would not result in the “take” of migratory birds, their eggs, or their nests.
National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines (USFWS 2007)	The proposed project would not result in the “take” of bald eagles or impact bald eagles. The proposed project would be in conformance with the guidelines. (Section 3.10.2 FEIS)
National Forest Management Act of 1976	In accordance with the National Forest Management Act of 1976, this EIS evaluates the proposed project in terms of its conformity with the Forest Plan (USFS 1986) and its potential effects on the various resources contributing to the multiple uses for which the NFS land in the project area is managed. (Section 3.3.2.1 FEIS)
National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended)	In accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA, the potential effects of the proposed project on historic properties listed on the NRHP or eligible for such listing were evaluated prior to signing the ROD. See agency consultation summary (Section 4.2.3). The Forest Service prepared the Bordertown MOA pursuant to the NHPA.
Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990	In the event that Native American human remains or grave goods are encountered during construction, personnel will follow the Inadvertent Discovery Plan in Appendix C of the Bordertown MOA (2019). Native American Tribes would be consulted in the event that Native American human remains are encountered.

L. Implementation Date

This Final ROD can signed as the following requirements have been met:

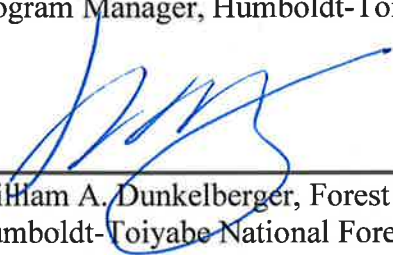
1. Objections. No objections were received during the 45-day formal objection period initiated by the legal notice in the Reno Gazette Journal on March 9, 2018.
2. Thirty days following the publication of the notice of availability (NOA) for the Final EIS in the federal register (40 CFR 1506.10). The Notice of Availability of a Final EIS was published in the Federal Register on June 22, 2018.
3. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act compliance. The Bordertown MOA was signed May 10, 2019. A letter dated May 24, 2019 from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation provided the fully executed agreement.

This project will be authorized by a Forest Service special use permit when:

1. NV Energy obtains all applicable permits and approvals including but not limited to special use permits from the BLM, Truckee Meadows Planning Agency, Washoe County, City of Reno, and private easements, see Section 1.9 of the FEIS. The project will be phased with improvements beginning at the California substation on private land and Bordertown Substation on Bureau of Land Management to occur in 2020 with powerline construction anticipated in 2021.
2. The wildlife habitat restoration account is funded with the Nevada Department of Wildlife.
3. The construction, operation, maintenance plan is approved by the Forest Service.

M. Contact Person

For additional information concerning this final record of decision contact Marnie Bonesteel, Lands Special Uses Program Manager, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, at (775) 352-1240, or marnie.bonesteel@usda.gov



William A. Dunkelberger, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Date

Appendix B Project Design Features

General Practices (GP)

- GP 1. All environmentally sensitive areas (i.e., culturally sensitive areas, meadows, and special status plant populations) will be temporarily fenced during construction for avoidance.
- GP 2. Prior to construction, all construction personnel will be instructed on the protection of sensitive biological and cultural resources that have the potential to occur on-site by qualified personnel.
- GP 3. Construction activities may require temporary access through existing fences and gates on public and private land. Fencing will be replaced when construction activities are completed. Replacement fencing will be built to agency or landowner specifications, consistent with the fencing that was removed. During construction, fences with open gates will remain open and fences with closed gates will remain closed. Fences crossed during construction will be braced and secured prior to cutting the fence to prevent slackening of the wire.
- GP 4. Prior to any construction activities, all utilities will be located by utilizing "Call before you dig" to avoid disruption to any services. If blasting is required within proximity to the Kinder Morgan buried gas pipeline, NV Energy will coordinate with Kinder Morgan and use a qualified licensed blaster.
- GP 5. Concrete wash out stations will be pre-approved and the water will be captured and disposed off NFS Lands and at an approved facility.
- GP 6. Long-term equipment staging and storage areas will not be located on NFS land.
- GP 7. Near sensitive receptors (i.e., occupied residences), noise-generating activities (e.g., blasting) will be limited to Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Otherwise, work may occur 12 hours per day any day of the week.
- GP 8. Annual inspection will be made via helicopter or from the ground by walking to pole structures from existing roads.
- GP 9. Signs, flagging, or other readily visible markings will be used to indicate the presence of guy wires to reduce the potential for people and wildlife to run into the wires.

Noxious Weeds (NW)

- NW 1. Noxious weeds occurring on either the Nevada or California State list will be mapped and the full extent of the population will be treated prior to and following construction. Inventory and treatment areas will extend 100 feet from the ROW and all ground disturbed by project activities. Project disturbances include roads proposed for widening, construction access roads, equipment and material staging areas, and vegetation removal, including skid trails and landings.
- NW 2. Monitoring and continued treatment in areas that were treated prior to construction will commence the first full growing season after project implementation. Weed treatment will continue until disturbed areas are successfully restored (see restoration criteria). Weed treatment will continue during maintenance activities and within the ROW.
- NW 3. All equipment utilized off of existing roads and motorized trails will be cleaned with a high-pressure power washer of all mud, dirt, and plant parts. Following cleaning, equipment will be inspected for plant parts (e.g., leaves, stems, seeds). Equipment will be cleaned and inspected again prior to re-entry if it leaves the project site. Equipment will be inspected and cleaned again before moving from an area within the project area with known noxious weed species.

Inspections will be completed and documented by qualified personnel such as a USFS noxious weed specialist or USFS botanist.

- NW 4. When cut and fill is required to create log landings, topsoil will be stockpiled and covered to prevent weeds from establishing in the soil. This topsoil will be re-spread during restoration of the landings.
- NW 5. Staging areas will not be located in weed infested areas. Staging areas will be inspected by qualified personnel for pre-approved use to reduce the risk of introducing noxious weeds into the project area.
- NW 6. Construction of access roads will not occur in areas heavily infested with noxious or invasive weeds.
- NW 7. Restoration seed mixes will be certified as weed-free.
- NW 8. All gravel and/or fill material will be certified as weed-free.
- NW 9. NV Energy will coordinate with other county, state and federal agencies to address and treat landscape level infestations of invasive plant species.
- NW 10. For invasive plants that can be effectively controlled through grubbing or manual removal, methods that prevent seed spread or re-sprouting will be used. If flowers or seeds are present, the weed will be pulled carefully to prevent seeds from falling and will be placed in an appropriate container for disposal. If flowers and seedheads are not present or are removed and disposed of as described above, the invasive plant may be pulled and placed on the ground to dry out.
- NW 11. The appropriate method of control specific to the type of noxious weed will be used. Specific methods will be identified in the COM Plan.

Vegetation (VG)

- VG 1. Placement of the ROW will avoid wherever possible, isolated groups of trees and/or groups of trees with an average diameter of dominant and co-dominant trees greater than 24 inches at breast height (dbh) as directed/approved by a USFS Forester.
- VG 2. All trees measuring 8 inches or greater in dbh that need to be removed shall be identified and marked for removal by a USFS Forester prior to felling on NFS land.
- VG 3. For trees measuring 8 inches or greater in dbh, stump height shall not exceed 12 inches above ground level on the uphill side or 12 inches above natural obstacles. Trees less than 8 inches in dbh, stump heights shall not exceed 6 inches above ground level on the uphill side or 6 inches above natural obstacles.
- VG 4. Trees identified for removal will be whole tree yarded to log landings for disposal. Permits and/or contracts shall be issued prior to felling any trees greater than 8 inches dbh. All logs and slash will be removed from NFS land within 6 weeks to reduce insect and disease infestations. Woodchips not needed for restoration will also be removed from NFS land within 6 weeks.
- VG 5. Where removal of vegetation other than trees is unavoidable, the vegetation will be cut at ground level to preserve the root structure and allow for potential sprouting.
- VG 6. All areas of temporary ground disturbance that result from the construction or maintenance of the project will be restored as required by the land management agency and per any applicable permits. Restoration will include restoring contours to their approximate pre-construction condition, stabilizing the area through seeding, mulching, placement of erosion control fabric, and installing erosion control features. Revegetation may include incorporation of chips into the

soil, as needed. Erosion control includes installing cross drains and placing water bars in the road, as needed.

VG 7. Successfully restored areas will be defined as:

Reference sites will be pre-established and approved by the USFS. Reference sites will include plant communities that are representative of the ecological site and must include plant communities that are in a late-seral and ecologically functioning condition. Appropriate reference sites will be determined by collecting baseline cover data to indicate plant succession and community structure.

VG 8. Project implementation will comply with conditions in Lahontan Water Quality Control Board timber harvest waiver.

Herbicide Use (HE)

- HE 1. Herbicides will be used in accordance with label instructions, except where project design features describe more restrictive measures. An herbicide use plan will be developed and included in the COM Plan.
- HE 2. Prior to the start of application, all spray equipment will be calibrated to insure accuracy of the delivered amounts of herbicide. Equipment used during herbicide application will be regularly inspected to insure it is in proper working order.
- HE 3. Herbicide spray applications will not occur when wind velocity is 5 miles per hour or greater to further minimize the potential for drift.
- HE 4. Herbicide applications will not be conducted during rain or immediately following rain when soil is saturated or runoff or standing water is present. Application will occur only under favorable weather conditions, defined as:
 - a) 30% or less chance of precipitation on the day of application based upon National Weather Service weather forecasting for the Reno area;
 - b) If rain, showers or light rains are predicted within 48 hours, the amount of rain predicted shall be no more than ¼ inch of rain; and
 - c) Rain does not appear likely at the time of application.
- HE 5. Preparation of herbicides for application, including mixing, filling of wands and rinsing of spray equipment, will take place outside of wetlands, meadows, riparian zones, wells and springs, and other sensitive sites, and more than 300 feet from surface water. Herbicide preparation will occur only on level, disturbed sites such as the interior of landings.
- HE 6. A spill cleanup kit will be readily available whenever herbicides are transported or stored. A spill kit will be carried by the applicator at all times when using the wicking application method.
- HE 7. Low nozzle pressure (<25 pounds per square inch), and a coarse spray (producing a median droplet diameter of >500 microns) will be used in order to minimize drift during herbicide applications.
- HE 8. Prior to treatments in areas of concentrated public use, the public will be notified about upcoming herbicide treatments via posting signs.
- HE 9. The herbicide spray nozzle will be kept as close to target plants as possible (within 20 inches) while achieving uniform coverage in order to limit overspray and drift to non-target vegetation.

- HE 10. Where riparian vegetation communities occur, herbicide application will be limited to directed foliar spray or wiping methods and spray will be directed away from native vegetation.
- HE 11. Herbicide treatments will not occur within 500 feet of sensitive plant occurrences.
- HE 12. Herbicide application within wet meadows will be limited to treating invasive plant infestations that occupy less than 100 square feet. Herbicide applications will be limited to wiping techniques with aminopyralid, chlorsulfuron, and glyphosate and treatment of the following high priority species: Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), yellow star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*) or tall whitetop (*Lepidium latifolium*) which are difficult to eradicate with non-chemical means. Meadows will be surveyed for special status plant species prior to any chemical treatments and will be monitored post-treatment to determine effects to non-targeted vegetation.
- HE 13. Herbicide application will not occur within the established buffers for aquatic features shown in **Table B-1**.

Table B-1 Minimum Buffers (ft) for Herbicide Application Near Aquatic Features

Herbicide	Application Method	Dry Aquatic Features	Streams ¹ or Ditches with Water ²	Wetland or Meadow
Aminopyralid	Spot & directed foliar spray	25	25	100
	Wiping	15	150	15
Chlorsulfuron	Directed foliar spray	25	100	100
	Wiping	15	15	15
Glyphosate	Directed foliar spray or drizzle	0	25	25
	Cut stump or wiping	0	15	15
Imazapic	Directed foliar spray	25	75	75
Triclopyr (TEA)	Directed foliar spray	25	75	75
	Wiping or cut stump	15	15	15
Clopyralid	Spot & directed foliar spray	25	50	50
	Wiping	15	15	15

¹As measured from the edge of the stream channel. If a defined channel is not present (draws do not have defined channels), measurement is from the bottom of the feature.

²As measured from the edge of the wet area or the meadow vegetation, whichever is greater. Limited conditions allowing for herbicide application within meadows are described in HE 17.

- HE 14. Herbicide application is limited to targeted treatments directed at the plant (spot treatments of the immediate area surrounding the plant are allowed with aminopyralid and clopyralid, only) using a backpack sprayer; broadcast spray methods that dispense chemical over a non-localized area will not be used.
- HE 15. Avoid application of Aminopyralid and Clopyralid sprayed mulch materials on revegetation sites.

Forest Health (FH) - Insects and Disease

- FH 1. To reduce the build-up or residual tree mortality by pine engraver beetles (*Ips pini*), and reduce fuel loading the following measures shall occur:
- a. Trees greater than 3 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) (whether in accessible or inaccessible areas) shall be removed (after proper permitting) to established log landings. Slash shall be chipped and hauled off of NFS land for disposal. All logs and slash shall be removed from NFS lands within 6 weeks of cutting. Any incidental breakage during whole-tree yarding that is 3 inches in diameter or greater shall be lopped and scattered to within 18 inches of the ground in open areas.
 - b. Timing: In areas where material 3 inches or greater in diameter is left on site, cutting shall only occur from August 1 through December 31. Material must be lopped and scattered to within 18 inches of the ground in open areas. There are no timing restrictions for dead trees or species other than pine.

Water Resources and Soil (WA)

- WA 1. As a part of the COM Plan, SWPPP will be prepared to minimize erosion from the project construction worksites and to contain sediment. The SWPPP will be prepared in accordance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Stormwater Permit. At a minimum, it will identify the existing drainage patterns of the construction work sites and ROW/easement, nearby drainages and washes, potential pollutant sources other than sediment, and erosion and sediment control measures and BMPs that will be implemented to protect stormwater runoff. The SWPPP will include maps with locations for erosion and sediment control measures, and BMPs. The SWPPP will be kept on site throughout the duration of construction.
- WA 2. Erosion and stormwater controls will be inspected on the ground at least once every seven days and within 24 hours of a storm event of 0.5 inch or greater. Weather forecasts and data available from the National Weather Service in Reno will be used to determine total precipitation associated with a storm event. Qualified personnel of NV Energy or its contractors with specific training in erosion and sediment control will perform the inspections.
- WA 3. Construction equipment staging areas, and storage of equipment fuels will not be located within 300 feet of perennial streams or within 150 feet of intermittent and ephemeral streams. Staging areas and fuel storage will also not be located within 150 feet of wetlands or other water feature.
- WA 4. Pole sites and staging areas will not be constructed within the 100-year floodplain of any stream or within wetlands.
- WA 5. Construction equipment will not be operated on unstable soils or on soils too wet to adequately support equipment in order to prevent rutting, puddles on soil surface, or runoff of sediments directly into water bodies.
- WA 6. Topsoil removed from foundation holes will be separated and stockpiled at the edge of active work areas to salvage the seed bank.
- WA 7. Water drafting (i.e. water withdrawal) from streams will not be permitted. Water shall be provided by truck for dust abatement and other project needs.

Temporary Stream Crossings

- WA 8. Improvements to any existing road crossing will be designed to minimize surface disturbance.

- WA 9. Crossings will be located where the stream channel is narrow, straight, and uniform, and has stable soils and relatively flat terrain. Stream crossings will be oriented perpendicular to the stream channel. All stream crossings will be designed and installed such that sufficient load-bearing strength for the expected equipment is provided.
- WA 10. Stream crossings will be designed for a normal range of flows for the site, and crossings that must remain in place during high runoff seasons will be stabilized. However, all crossings will be temporary and will be removed at the end of the construction season. The water body profile and substrate will be restored when the crossing is removed.
- WA 11. Stream crossings will be regularly monitored to evaluate the condition. Any repairs or improvements to the crossings identified during monitoring will be promptly addressed.
- WA 12. Surface drainage and roadway stabilization measures will be used to disconnect the access road from the stream in order to avoid or minimize water and sediment from being channeled into surface waters and to dissipate concentrated flows.
- WA 13. On perennial streams, existing crossings will be utilized and no new crossings will be constructed.

Plants and Sensitive Plant Communities (SV)

- SV 1. If any Forest Service or BLM sensitive plant or federal- or state-listed species are identified during construction activities, the USFS will be contacted within 24 hours. Depending on the plant species appropriate protective measures will be implemented.
- SV 2. Prior to construction, once access roads and pole locations are known, the following tasks will be completed for areas where surface disturbance is planned:
 - a. Pre-construction surveys for jaw-leaf lupine, andesite popcorn flower, and moonwort ferns;
 - b. Mapping and flagging of sensitive plant species, wetland areas, and noxious weeds; and
 - c. Noxious weed infestations will be treated according to design features NW1 and NW 2.
- SV 3. There will be no new access roads or widening of existing roads for construction access through meadows. This measure will also protect potential habitat for special status plant populations that are found in wetland and meadow habitats, such as Dog Valley ivesia.
- SV 4. Poles, staging areas, and line clearance areas, and any project-related ground disturbance will avoid all special status plant populations.
- SV 5. Where existing roads are used for travel to the project site (but not widened), any road maintenance within 100 feet from special status plant populations will focus on avoiding impacts. A permanent physical barrier, such as lining the roads with rock or fencing the road corridor, will be constructed to prohibit vehicle access to sensitive plant populations and contain travel within the existing road corridor.

Webber Ivesia and Dog Valley Ivesia

- SV 6. Construction of new access roads (i.e., spur roads and centerline travel roads) and widening of existing roads and motorized trails will not occur within 500 meters (1,640 feet) of populations of Dog Valley ivesia (*Ivesia aperta* var. *canina*) and Webber ivesia (*Ivesia webberi*) occurring on NFS land. Allowable maintenance of roads within these habitat areas that do not require widening include blading and installation of erosion control measures. Construction of new temporary access roads and widening of existing roads and motorized trails will not occur within 200 feet of other special status plant populations that occur on NFS land. Within these buffer

distances, travel and road maintenance on existing roads and motorized trails may be permitted but road improvements including widening of the existing travelled way are prohibited.

- SV 7. The transmission line will be excluded from the occupied habitat unit for Webber ivesia populations occurring on NFS land. (Occupied habitat includes the low sage habitat where the plants are present and a 500-meter buffer from the edge of the occurrence. The 500-meter buffer would include low sage and adjacent shrub steppe habitats to accommodate pollinators associated with the rare plant community).
- SV 8. Techniques to span over Webber ivesia potential habitat (i.e., unoccupied suitable habitat) will be evaluated with a USFS botanist. Unavoidable pole placement within habitat will require use of a helicopter. Access roads will not be constructed within potential habitat. Potential habitat includes low sage plant communities with specific habitat attributes: presence of a rocky pavement surface, presence of an argillic soil horizon, plant community composition and presence of associated plants, topographic position of the site, and, known elevation range. Areas defined as potential habitat will require the 500-meter buffer.

Wildlife and Sensitive Wildlife Species (WL)

- WL 1. If any Forest Service or BLM sensitive wildlife or plant species are identified during pre-construction surveys or during construction activities, work in the general area of the identified species will be halted until a USFS biologist or other qualified biologist is consulted to determine an appropriate buffer and other protective measures. The USFS will be notified within 24 hours of the discovery of the species. Buffer distance will be established in consultation with the USFS on a case by case basis depending on species and type and magnitude of construction activity. If avoidance is infeasible, consultation with the USFS, and at its discretion, any cooperating agencies will be contacted prior to continuing work in the immediate area of the species. The same process will be implemented in the event that any federal- or state-listed species are discovered on public land, with the discovery being reported to the USFS or BLM, depending on the respective land administration.
- WL 2. If appropriate, additional surveys for Northern goshawk and flammulated owl or other Forest Service sensitive species will be conducted prior to construction by a qualified biologist approved by the USFS. Coordination with the USFS will be conducted prior to commencing surveys to determine appropriate survey methodology, timing, and survey area. If nesting is detected the Forest Service will be contacted within 24 hours and Forest Plan standard and guidelines (USFS 2004) will be implemented. A designated Protected Activity Center (PAC) will be delineated around the nest site. Within the PAC no construction activities may occur during the "Limited Operating Period" April 15th- September 30th. Pole construction will need to be designed to span the PAC.
- WL 3. To reduce potential disturbance to migratory birds, construction will occur outside the typical avian breeding season (April 1 to July 31). If construction activities cannot be avoided during this time period, surveys will be conducted immediately prior to construction to locate active nesting areas.
 - WL 4. If active avian nests are located on NFS land or BLM-administered public land, they will be flagged and avoided until after the breeding period. NV Energy will coordinate with the USFS or BLM biologist to determine appropriate time frames for resuming construction.
- WL 5. Excavations deep enough to potentially entrap wildlife species will be covered and fenced at night or when unattended to prevent livestock or wildlife from falling in. All covers will be secured in place and strong enough to prevent breakage by wildlife.

- WL 6. To avoid impacts to wintering mule deer, construction will not occur from November 25 through May 25 within areas mapped as crucial winter or winter-spring high deer use, including the Mitchell Canyon Deer Management Area. Non-ground disturbing activities, such as surveying, staking, or resource driven activities (e.g., cultural surveys, biological surveys), may occur within this time frame.
- WL 7. To aid in providing browse for wintering mule deer, post construction revegetation in areas mapped as crucial winter and winter spring high use habitat will include seed mix of brush species preferred by mule deer (i.e., bitterbrush, mountain big sagebrush, mountain mahogany, serviceberry, snowberry, and Wyoming big sage) as well as appropriate forbs and grasses.
- WL 8. To ensure that impacts to wildlife habitat, particularly mule deer are no more than minor, vegetation that would be permanently lost or temporarily disturbed from the project, would require creation of or improvement of on or offsite wildlife habitat. To achieve this, NV Energy will fund a habitat restoration account that includes the cost of restoring three acres to every one acre of habitat that is permanently or temporarily disturbed. The account will be administered by NDOW or a Sierra Front Wildlife Working Group that would include NDOW, Washoe County, USFS, BLM, City of Reno and other interested participants.
- WL 9. To protect raptors such as hawks and eagles from electrocution, transmission line and pole structures will be constructed in conformance with the guidelines contained in Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines: the State of the Art in 2006, prepared by the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (2006).
- WL 10. To limit the potential for impacts to aquatic resources, particularly to Lahontan cutthroat trout, pole sites or roads will not be placed within the 100-year floodplain in Dog Creek, Bull Ranch Creek, and the Truckee River. During construction, no soil disturbing activities will occur within the 100-year floodplain of these streams.

Cultural Resources (CU)

- CU 1. All personnel working on the project should be familiar with, and be in possession of, the Bordertown Inadvertent Discover Plan (Appendix C of the Bordtown MOA).
- CU 2. If previously unidentified cultural resources are found, work will be halted immediately within a minimum distance of 300 feet from the discovery. Personnel must adhere to Bordertown Inadvertent Discovery Plan (Appendix C of the Bordertown MOA).
- CU 3. In the event the project changes during implementation, the Forest Service will reinstate consultation per regulations at 36 CFR 800 and in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- CU 4. Archaeological monitors are required per the Bordertown MOA (2019). They will assess avoidance measures and monitor disturbance activities near culturally sensitive areas.
- CU 5. If human remains are encountered during construction activities, all work within 300 feet of the remains will halt and the requirements of personnel identified in the Bordertown Inadvertent Discovery Plan will be followed.
- CU 6. Per the Bordertown Inadvertent Discovery Plan, if the remains are Native American, USFS will follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR 10, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Regulations and notify the appropriate Native American Tribe(s) immediately. If the Native American human remains are located on state or private land, the appropriate SHPO will be notified immediately. In Nevada, Native American human remains are protected under the provisions of the Protection of Indian Burial Sites section of the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) in Chapter 383. The

Nevada SHPO will consult with the Nevada Indian Commission and notify the appropriate Native American Tribe. Procedures for inadvertent discovery are listed under NRS 383.170. If the discovery of Native American human remains is made on State or private land in California, the California SHPO and the Native American Heritage Commission will be contacted. The Native American Heritage Commission will provide the name of a Most Likely Descendent who will then make recommendations for treatment and disposition of the remains and associated items.

Hazardous Materials and Waste (HM)

- HM 1. A Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC) will be implemented during construction to prevent any spills. The SPCC, which will include cleanup procedures, will become part of the COM plan.

Recreation/Roads/Transportation (RT)

- RT 1. The use of any roads or trails will require compliance with the Carson Ranger District Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM), including any restrictions for seasonal use.
- RT 2. All new temporary access roads and all improvements to existing roads will comply with: 1) The Forest Service National Supplements to the FP-03 (USFS, 2010); 2) the USFS Road Construction Handbooks (FSH 7709.56 and FSH 7709.57); and, 3) the Forest Plan.
- RT 3. All new access roads (i.e., spur roads and centerline travel roads) specifically constructed for this project will be re-contoured and reclaimed and will have a physical closure installed to prevent motorized access immediately following the completion of construction and restoration. The types of closure and design specification used will be approved by the USFS prior to installation.
- RT 4. Physical barriers such as boulders or natural features designed to harmonize with the natural environment of the surrounding area will be installed to prevent unauthorized vehicle use from occurring on restored roads. The use of gates or other such structures for this purpose will be avoided unless determined necessary by the USFS.
- RT 5. Maintenance activities which cause a road to be opened to unauthorized vehicles or damage to restoration improvements will need to be assessed and barriers reinstalled as needed at the expense of NV Energy.
- RT 6. Restored roads will require a signage and monitoring plan implemented by NV Energy for compliance with the closure which will include inspecting the barricade areas to determine the effectiveness of the blockades at preventing unauthorized motorized vehicle use of the restored access roads. Signs will notify the public that construction access roads are closed and are being restored. Signs will be replaced by NV Energy if vandalism occurs to the signs.
- RT 7. If unauthorized vehicle use occurs on restored roads, barricades and reclamation will be monitored for effectiveness and remedial measures taken. Monitoring will continue until disturbed areas are successfully restored.
- RT 8. Public access will be maintained with minimal delays during the construction and maintenance of the project. If there are traffic delays, NV Energy will post delay information at National Forest portals.
- RT 9. All construction vehicle movement will be restricted to the transmission line ROW/easement, pre-designated access roads, public roads, and private roads. All existing roads will be left in a condition equal to or better than their preconstruction condition.

Visual Resources (VI)

- VI 1. Non-specular conductors will be installed to reduce visual impacts.
- VI 2. The number of new poles will be minimized by increasing the pole span length on NFS land where the area is designated as Partial Retention for Visual Quality Objectives as terrain allows.

Fire Prevention and Response (FP)

- FP 1. Fire Prevention Plan will be implemented during construction activities to prevent and suppress fire. The Fire Prevention Plan will be included in the COM Plan.

Air Quality (AQ)

- AQ 1. Vehicle and equipment speeds will be limited to 20 miles per hour on unpaved roads and on the ROW/easement.
- AQ 2. All areas subject to ground disturbance will be watered as needed to control dust.
- AQ 3. Paved roads will be swept if visible soil material is tracked onto them by construction vehicles.
- AQ 4. Excavation and grading activities will be suspended when winds (instantaneous gusts) exceed 50 miles per hour and visible dust persists that creates a health hazard to neighboring property owners and/or visibility impacts to vehicular traffic.
- AQ 5. In order to reduce construction equipment emissions, engines on construction-related vehicles will:
 - a) Be tuned to the engine manufacturer's specification in accordance with an appropriate time frame;
 - b) Not be idle for more than five minutes (unless it is necessary for the operating scope of the equipment and operation);
 - c) Not be tampered with in order to increase engine horsepower;
 - d) Include particulate traps, oxidation catalysts and other suitable control devices on all construction equipment used at the project site; and
 - e) Use diesel fuel having a sulfur content of 15 parts per million or less, or other suitable alternative diesel fuel, unless such fuel cannot be reasonably procured in the market area.